

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 00665 181607Z

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ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7023

INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

WMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN 1091

COMCARIBSEAFRON

CINCLANT

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 0665

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: GJ PINS PINT

SUBJ: GRENADA

REF: BRIDGETOWN 0568

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

BEGIN SUMMARY: GULP CANDIDATES WIN LANDSLIDE VICTORIES IN BY-ELECTION. GRENADA POLICE GIVEN NEW ARREST POWERS AFTER PM GAIRY BLAMES SUBVERSIVES FOR VIOLENCE IN GRENADA. MAURICE BISHOP ARRESTED AS ACCESSORY TO ATTEMPTED MURDER OF SECRET POLICE LEADER. COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO RESUME HEARINGS ON POLICE BRUTALITY APRIL 22. GOG ANNOUNCES CREATION OF PLANNING UNIT TO DIRECT RECONSTRUCTION OF GRENADA'S CRIPPLED ECONOMY. END SUMMARY.

1. BOTH CANDIDATES PUT FORWARD BY RULING GRENADA UNITED LABOUR PARTY (GULP) IN APRIL 5 BY-ELECTION (REFTEL) WON SWEEPING VICTORIES OVER THEIR INDEPENDENT OPPONENTS. ASHTON FRAME, RUNNING IN
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PAGE 02 BRIDGE 00665 181607Z

CONSTITUENCY FORMERLY REGARDED AS OPPOSITION STRONGHOLD OF ST.

PARTICK'S WEST, REPORTEDLY WON BY VOTE OF 837 TO NINE OVER JASPER JOHN, WHILE NORMAN DE SOUZA WON BY SIMILAR MARGIN OVER MARTIE MOORE IN ST. GEORGE'S SOUTHEAST RACE. NEITHER JOHN NOR MOORE RECEIVED ENDORSEMENT OF OPPOSITION GRENADA NATIONAL PARTY (GNP). RESULT GIVES GULP FOURTEEN-TO-ONE MAJORITY OF ELECTED MEMBERS IN HOUSE, WITH ONLY CONSTITUENCY REPRESENTED BY GNP BEING ISLAND OF CARRIACOU.

2. BOTH NEW MEMBERS WERE PRESENT AT APRIL 13 SITTING OF OF HOUSE WHICH SAW PASSAGE OF POLICE AMENDMENT ACT (NO. 2) 1974 EMPOWERING POLICE TO DETAIN PERSONS ON SUSPICION FOR UP TO 48 HOURS. SPEAKING DURING SESSION, PM ERIC GAIRY BLAMED SUBERSIVES FOR RECENT ACTS OF VIOLENCE IN GRENADA AND DEFENDED GOG'S RIGHT TO IMPOSE HARSH MEASURES TO ENSURE SECURITY OF ITS CITIZENS. GAIRY REPORTEDLY MADE FREQUENT REFERENCES TO NAW JEWEL MOVEMENT (NJM) AND IMPLIED THAT SUBVERSIVES RESPONSIBLE FOR SLAYING OF FARMER ROY DONALD, SHOT TO DEATH AFTER BEING STOPPED BY ROADBLOCK NEAR GRENVILLE EVENING OF APRIL 7.

3. ON APRIL 7 GRENADA POLICE AGAIN ARRESTED NJM COORDINATING SECRETARY MAURICE BISHOP, THIS TIME AS ACCESSORY TO ATTEMPTED MURDER LAST DECEMBER 28 OF HIS COUSIN WILLIE BISHOP, REPUTED TO BE LEADER OF GAIRY'S "MONGOOSE GANG" OR SECRET POLICE. FIVE OTHER PERSONS ALREADY CHARGED IN CONNECTION WITH SUSPECTED SHOOTOUT BETWEEN NJM AND "MONGOOSE" MEMBERS IN WHICH WILLIE BISHOP SERIOUSLY WOULDDED AND AN NJM MEMBER KILLED. MAURICE BISHOP REPORTEDLY RELEASED ON EC DOLS 500 BAIL PENDING TRIAL AND IS ALSO AWAITING TRIAL ON CHARGE OF WEAPONS POSSESSION STEMMING FROM HIS ARREST FEBRUARY 7.

4. IN INTERVIEW WITH TRINIDAD REPORTER THERESE MILLS PRIOR HIS ARREST, BISHOP SAID HE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM VISITS TO CANADA, THE US AND SEVERAL CARIBBEAN TERRITORIES WHERE HE SOLICITED SUPPORT FOR OPPOSITION GROUPS. HE ALSO VISITED NEW YOUR IN EFFORT TO HAVE GRENADA ISSUE PLACED ON AGENDA OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING IN JULY BUT INDICATED CONSIDERATION MIGHT BE POSTPONED OWING TO COMMISSION'S ALREADY FULL SCHEDULE. BISHOP EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT GRENADA SEAMEN AND WATERFRONT WORKERS' UNION HAD ENDED ITS SHUTDOWN OF GRENADA'S PORT WITHOUT AWAITING EVIDENCE OF GOG'S INTENT TO COMPLY WITH UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BRIDGE 00665 181607Z

OPPOSITION DEMANDS. BISHOP DENIED THERE HAD BEEN ANY SUSPENSION OF GOVERNMENTAL REPRESSION, PARTICULARLY THAT DIRECTED AGAINST NJM. HE ALSO DENIED PM GAIRY'S IMPLIED ALLEGATION THAT NJM RESPONSIBLE FOR DEATH OF ROY DONALD, POINTING OUT THAT DONALD WAS OUTSPOKEN CRITIC OF GOG, ONE-TIME MEMBER OF OPPOSITION GNP AND AN NJM SYMPATHIZER. INTERPRETING GOG REPRESSION AS WEAKNESS, HE INDICATED NJM WOULD CONTINUE ITS STRUGGLE AGAINST GOG BY INTENSIFYING ITS CAMPAIGN TO INFORM AND ORGANIZE GRENADA'S

RURAL MASSES.

5. COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INVESTIGATING ALLEGATIONS OF POLICE BRUTALITY EXPECTED TO RESUME HEARINGS IN GRENADA APRIL 22. COMMISSION, HEADED BY RETIRED JAMAICAN CHIEF JUSTICE HERBERT DUFFUS, SUSPENDED HEARINGS IN LATE JANUARY FOLLOWING OUTBREAK OF RIOTING IN ST. GEORGE'S.

6. NORMAL 24-HOUR ELECTRICITY SERVICE WAS RESTORED APRIL 10 WITH ARRIVAL OF SHELL OIL TANKER FROM TRINIDAD. GEEST INDUSTRIES VESSEL ALSO DEPARTED ST. GEORGE'S APRIL 10 WITH FIRST SHIPMENT OF BANANAS FROM GRENADA THIS YEAR. DESPITE REOPENING OF PORT, LEVEL OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY DESCRIBED AS EXTREMELY LOW WITH CURRENT UNEMPLOYMENT UNOFFICIALLY ESTIMATED AT 70 PERCENT. GAIRY HAS ANNOUNCED PLANS FOR CREATION OF NEW DIVISION OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, TO BE ASSISTED BY ILO. ACCORDING TO GAIRY, DIVISION WILL DRAW UP DEVELOPMENT PLAN EMPHASIZING EDUCATION, AGRICULTURAL DIVERSIFICATION, INDUSTRY AND TOURISM, BUT NO DETAILS YET AVAILABLE. AMONG IDEAS REPORTEDLY BEING CONSIDERED IS MAKING ST. GEORGE'S A FREE PORT.
DONOVAN

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